

Archives for UFO Research - Archives for the Unexplained (AFU)

Annual report 2014

AFU is becoming “a world memory” for paranormal research where the international social traditions and published data from the UFO and paranormal fields are preserved for the future.

AFU is unique with UFOs as the core subject and with other paranormal subjects grouped around that core, not even forgetting extreme cultist movements and hard-core skepticism.

Many other paranormal archives & libraries have UFOs on their agenda but only marginally, with a focus on other core subjects like parapsychology, theosophy, science fiction, or a generally skeptical worldview.



May 2014: A box full of “DEGUforum” magazine arrives at the archives, donated by the German publishers.

A new name for AFU

As reported last year, in April 2013, the AFU board voted to change our name to **Archives for the Unexplained** (still with the acronym AFU). We applied for an authorization of this name from the regional *Länsstyrelsen* (County Administration Board). We asked for an official re-registration of the foundation, including its statutes where a few -

yet important - changes had been made throughout the years since we started in 1980.

This was not as easy as we thought. At the annual meeting on February 25, the AFU board was forced to re-adopt and turn back to the very first, old statutes for the foundation as they were written back in 1980. The changes made throughout the years were not allowed by *Länsstyrelsen*.

We thought we had done the right thing to use the *foundation* type as our *business structure*, but were not fully cognizant of the ban against making even slight changes to original statutes, like changing the number of board members, or a possible change of the foundation’s name. In hindsight, this proves impractical. Yet the foundation structure is safe and a guarantee for the future

A new tighter Swedish law requires foundations to be officially registered and put under annual government control by the end of 2016. Traditionally, regulation & control over Sweden’s foundations has been very vague. Now everything will be tightened up.

So, to continue we have, temporarily, chosen to revert to our original statutes where the meaning of the acronym AFU is **Archives for UFO Research**. This will continue until we can pay the 8.500 SEK (slightly more than USD 1.000) needed to apply for a so called *permutation* with the Kammarkollegiet government authority in Stockholm. Permutation procedures allows at least for *minor* changes to the statutes of an old foundation.

Economy

While AFU basically is a sponsor-driven foundation, the *present* high level of activity at AFU largely depends on subsidies from Arbetsförmedlingen (AF), the Swedish Government’s Employment Office.

From January 1, 2014, AFU has a new and expanded contract with AF to keep *twelve* people on work training through the so called “phase three” schemes, as designed by a conservative Swedish government in 2009. For each unemployed person we take on, AFU receives 225 SEK (USD 28) per work day as a direct subsidy. This is really a wonderful scheme for idealistic groups,

but has been misused by opportunistic entrepreneurs.

The scheme creates good funds for us to keep facilities, purchase computers, digitizing equipment and work places. The good income also gives us the resources to hire fully salaried people with (complementary) good subsidies under other government subsidy programs.

To recruit new people for these schemes during 2014 we took part in several “provider’s exhibitions” at the AF. We also had active exchanges with other similar work places.

The new left wing government, elected in September 2014, decided to decrease subsidies and to completely abandon “phase three” subsidies by 2018. We cannot fully see the consequences of this since there will also be a new election that same year. It’s all mostly in the political crystal ball.

Seeking safer and more permanent financing for the foundation is a major task for the AFU board. We continue to seek ideas to secure a good and safe future for the fantastic collections we have gathered, *and are gathering*, from all corners of the globe. Especially to find and finance *better physical facilities* where we can work more efficiently.

During 2014 AFU managed to set aside 40.000 SEK (USD 5.000) for future & long-term needs. This money was invested in share & interest funds.

Sponsorships

AFU depends on a pool of sponsors, especially to pay rents for the basement facilities where our collections of books and magazines are kept. The present pool consists of about 25 people who faithfully pay their contributions, small and large.

Except for one single person all of our sponsors are Swedes *which makes up for a great international potential of hundreds of other sponsors?* Can you set aside the equivalent of maybe USD 5.00 or 10 Euro each month? Or USD 60 or 100 Euro once each year? Paid by bank transfer or via Paypal?

During 2014 we had the following monetary donations (sums in SEK) (divide by 8 to get USD):

Jennie Backman, 600; Berndt Bartosch, 600; Håkan Blomqvist, 4.200; Tage Bång, 1.000; Ian Carlström, 200; Barbro Gustavsson, 1.800; Antti Hulterström, 150; Pål Johansson, 600; Anders Liljegren, 7.800; Annika Logren, 1.200; Rolf Lövgren, 600; Bruno Mancusi, 1.200; Carl-Anton Mattsson, 700; Berit Nordin Rydberg, 1.200; Göran Norlén, 4.800; Andreas Ohlsson, 2.450; Kennet Revland, 2.680,

Stefan Roslund, 2.600; Anders Skoglund, 200; Clas Svahn, 8.550, Acke Svensson, 1.000; Sven Olov Svensson, 200; Christer Teike, 200; Ung Scen Öst (Malin Axelsson), 200; and Tatjana Westman, 500.

Carl-Anton Mattsson also made a special donation of 8.200 SEK (USD 1.000) for a new photo scanner.

Work training projects

AFU co-operates with the Aktema group at the Norrköping Community to keep incapacitated people activated on part time jobs. On August 19 we had a visit by members of the local society for people with *Asperger’s syndrome*. We aim to profile AFU as a possible future place of work for people with that diagnosis.

With much grief we followed Sandra Aronsson, an Aktema co-worker at AFU since 1993, to her last and final resting place on May 22. Sandra worked for us with creating the database of Swedish clippings and contributed more than 15.000 records to that database.

We also maintained continuous co-operation with coaches & therapists from the regional co-operation group **Samordningsförbunden i Östergötland** and from **Arbetsförmedlingen (AF)**. We accepted several people on work training for shorter and longer periods. Trainees included Robert, Anita, Gabrielle, Håkan A, Emil, Kim, Magnus J and Fredrik.



Rusty clips after years of storage under bad conditions – example from FSR archives.

Staff at the archives

Throughout the year Leif Åstrand and Katarina Hampusson worked full time as salaried staff members. Li Elvenmark was salaried during the first six months. Her subsidy from the AF (Arbetsförmedlingen) was not prolonged after that.

Board member Anders Liljegren worked as volunteering, un-salaried archives manager and economist throughout the year. Sven Olov

Svensson, Anci Mårdh and Ingrid Collberg continued their volunteer jobs for the foundation.

New facility co-rented

From September we joined forces with another idealistic group to co-rent their old facility which is next-door to AFU's first & oldest premises. The new space (75 square meters) has one room which is now used (temporarily) as a sorting facility by AFU, and another room with coffee-tables and sofas for meetings of (up to) 30-40 people. Here we can assemble the complete AFU staff & board for meetings.

New facilities wanted

On Febr 25 some 15 members of the AFU board & staff paid a visit to the 'culture centre' **Hallarna** (www.hallarna.org), invited by the manager of the house. The idea had been raised that AFU could possibly find new, larger and more practical facilities in this old industrial building from the late 19th century. This would happen in case a theater moved – *as then planned* – their storage and sewing rooms out of the building. The facilities would have been very appropriate for AFU.

Shortly after our visit, however, it was decided that the theatre would not move out since the deal with a new facility for them, to move to, had fallen through.

Finding new headquarters under one single roof is of the great importance for the efficiency and future of AFU. The present situation with moving around collections between (now) eleven different facilities is unpractical.



AFU files on Swedish submarine violations

NAS disc station & web

In the autumn we purchased a Synology DS 2413+ NAS (Network Attached Storage) unit. The disc station has twelve slots for hard discs. We purchased 4 Tb discs for each slot giving a net capacity of about 40 Tb with internal redundancy backup functions. Right now we have about 12 Tb of active data, migrated from a large number of previous (individual) hard disc drives.

Basically, the NAS unit can be accessed from any internet connection across the world. *AFU does not intend to be that open, and cannot.* The full contents of the NAS will only be known & open for certain members of our board and for some trusted members of our International Advisory Board.

The reason for this is obvious: most of our digitized materials must be protected from use & download access since *copyright* laws prohibit us from posting but a small fraction of all the materials available.

Another large chunk of digitized materials (like our report archives and taped witness interviews from many countries) cannot be "everyone's right" due to *personal integrity* issues. As a reporter of a phenomenon to any serious UFO organization you must have the right to remain anonymous and we must help keep that promise.

Limited contents of our NAS unit will be made available – on second-hand digital media - for serious researchers after contact with the AFU board and after our review against copyright and integrity issues and rules agreed upon with original donors of collections.

The AFU website – revamped in 2013 – was mastered by Anders Liljegren (contents) and by AFU sponsor Göran Norlén (technical server support).

Shelves & other equipment

We purchased yet another (the fourth) A3 scanner for our digitization department. We also acquired a photo scanner (with computer and related equipment) for a new picture library project that started up. For this we had generous a generous donation of 20.000 SEK (USD 2.500) from the Community's foundation "The best for Norrköping" and also a donation from board member Carl-Anton Mattsson.

We invested in a new index sign system to better display our PhenCode classification throughout our library shelves. The index blocks we needed for 700+ PhenCode subject themes cost us a staggering 27.000 SEK (USD 3.400) but was still the

best to be found on the international library supply market.

Other investments included four new work chairs to keep our co-workers spines in good shape, a sorting stacker system with 72 stacks for more convenient sorting of large collections, and also some major purchases of archival boxes needed in the coming years.

The AFU Shop

The new AFU shop had its first order on December 16, 2013 (actually placed by long-time AFU sponsor Bruno Mancusi from Switzerland). The first year for afushop.hemsida24.se was a small success with more than one hundred orders bringing in a net sum of about 55.000 SEK (USD 6.900, after shipping & web site costs) to the foundation's budget. This could, for instance, pay for much of our annual costs for acquiring & shipping new collections.

The AFU Shop already has a worldwide clientele of customers. For simplicity, we only sell in US funds, and with Paypal payment. After testing the American *Shopify software* for a while we finally found a similar but even better Swedish alternative to provide for the web presentation & smooth daily handling of our shop. The shop now has more than 5.000 items for sale on line.

It is important to underline that the shop only sells books and magazines which are surplus to the archive's own long-term needs for preservation. Selling surplus copies creates new space on our shelves; generates a good extra income for running the foundation; and rare books and magazines find new homes and new audiences.

Katarina Hampusson is salaried to keep the shop running and to put up new items for sale every week. During the year AFU applied for Swedish VAT registration. Swedish VAT (6 %) is always included in our prices for European customers.

AFU sale of surplus books in Swedish are handled by the Parthenon antiquarian book shop run on the internet by our board member Carl-Anton Mattsson. Proceeds from the sales are shared between AFU and Parthenon.

AFU handles distribution and administration of UFO-Sweden's sale of books and retrospective copies of their magazine UFO-Aktuellt. Two of our facilities (paid for by UFO-Sweden) are used for UFO-Sweden's store for these sales.

Acquisition trips & donations

Board member Clas Svahn has, for more than a decade, manned up small teams of Swedish

ufologists who go by ferry across the North Sea to try to – *through direct personal contact* - persuade UK researchers, authors and collectors to leave at least parts of their valuable collections in hands of AFU. Sometimes this is combined with a promise to eventually digitize some part(s) of a collection.

This year's crew included Clas, his son Niklas and Carl-Anton Mattsson from the AFU board. The tour took place September 16-24, and was largely self-financed by money from the AFU foundation.



Mid-September 2014: Emptied sorting shelves at the reception facility ready for new collections from the UK and elsewhere.

This year the “Viking raiders”, as donor Bob Rickard jokingly christened them, brought materials from Lionel Beer (BUFORA and ASSAP archives), Bob Rickard (CFI and Fortean Times), Omar Fowler, Busty Taylor (parts of CCCS archive donated), Bill Foley (about 1.000 books from the Lord Clancarty library), Peter Rogerson (3.400 books this year), Edwin Joyce (new material from the FSR archive), Bob Digby (BUFORA archives) and the late Steve Moore. Clas also met with Isaac Koi and the Valentine Ward family (daughter of Hilary Evans).

Especially the book library collections from Bob Rickard, the Lord Clancarty Library and Peter Rogerson were impressive and provide many thousands of new titles for our library.

260 crammed boxes were sent via the DB Schenker terminal in London and over the North Sea, arriving in Norrköping on Sept 30.



September 30: Outside the reception facility a couple of days later – new boxes from the UK to work on.

Clas Svahn paid a similar visit to Belgium on October 24-27 where he met with several Belgian ufologists and paranormal researchers: Tin Vankerkom, Jean-Luc Vertongen, Coen Vermeeren, Patrick Ferryn and Wim van Utrecht.

We started to buy and to receive as part donations, against shipping costs, boxes of archive materials from Belgian veteran researcher Marc Hallet. We also acquired special collections for preservation from **Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos** in Barcelona, Spain.

Our book libraries

Our catalogue increased by 4.324 new media titles (or editions). Cataloguing work this year was performed by Ingrid Collberg, Katarina Hampusson, Kim Högberg and Helena Hakkarainen.

Most new books came with collections from Bob Rickard (CFI) (1.610 new editions), Hilary Evans (1.397), Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios (CEI) (388), Sune Hjorth (113), Susan Salaman (108), Sven Andersson (104), Gordon Creighton (FSR) (101), Clas Svahn (86), David Sankey (83), Håkan Blomqvist (49), Ole Braenne (48), Paul Sieveking (33), H.C. Petersen (27), Marc Hallet (14), Jens Pedersen (12), Parthenon (12), Stefan Roslund (12), Anders Berglund (11), Lionel Beer & BUFORA archives (9), Mikael Karlsson (9), Peter Mörtzell (9), Tatjana Westman (9), John Rimmer (6), Henry Svensson (6), Jörgen Granlie (5), Nils Midtöy (5), Johan Marcopoulos (4) and Kalevi Mikkonen (4). About 20 other persons and organizations donated from one to three new books each.

Our book library collection is divided between two premises. It is continuously the subject for re-

arranged to try to create more space. There is, of course, an upper limit to this.



Shortage of space – a recurrent phenomena in our libraries.

We increased the shelf capacity of the Evans library (parapsychology, psychology, folklore, religion) with about 18 meters by purchasing 24 top shelves. For the UFO/fortean library we bought three second-hand shelves increasing capacity by about 10 meters. Despite this, some parts of the two libraries are very overloaded and we need to take new measures to further increase shelf meters or be more discriminative with what we put on shelves and what can be kept in storage.

Newsclipping files

Our very costly coverage of newly published articles in the Swedish press media was discontinued in 2013.

Since then Anders Liljegen monitors recent newspaper & magazine clippings, roughly every second month, by searching the contents of www.mediarkivet.se. The database is available free of cost at the Norrköping Community Library. The new routine saves us almost 30.000 SEK (USD 3.800) annually.

The scanning of old clipping collections has focused on the editorial folders from Fortean Times where we have now created about 150.000 digital files. This includes every thinkable (and sometimes even unthinkable) type of fortean phenomena. We also digitized most of the Swedish UFO-related clippings (27.000).

AFU took on a major clipping collection from Rymdbolaget (the Swedish Space Corporation) concerning early space research, and especially Swedish involvement in this. The archive comprises about 150 file folders (8-10 shelf meters) and are packed in boxes in one of our storage rooms until the day we have the capacity to display the files.

Magazines & journals

Our store of magazines, journals and newsletters (in compact shelves on rails) now comprise more than 50.000 catalogued issues, representing most continents and countries of the world where specialized paranormal publication have seen the light of day. The magazine store covers every part of the belief spectrum, from the extremely skeptical to the outright cultish publications.

Each magazine title is catalogued by volume and records include exact information on our holdings, the editors, the ISSNs, publishers and donors for each volume. This is a Microsoft Access database.



Sept 2014: A run of Chinese UFO magazines from FSR archives being stored in a new acid-free file folder.

A large contingent of mostly “glossy” phenomena-related magazines was donated by Roger Brunstad and arrived at the archives on May 14.

Private & group files

Archival records on the inner life & workings of Swedish ufology and paranormal research groups are managed by board member Håkan Blomqvist. Håkan records basic data on Swedish groups and individuals on his English blog, for instance on ufoarchives.blogspot.se/2014/11/documenting-ufo-movement.html

Håkan Blomqvist and Clas Svahn worked on sorting and putting into archival order several important files from Swedish paranormal researchers and activists, including the files from the late Sven Magnusson (publisher of Sökaren). His files contain correspondence with many of the world’s foremost paranormal researchers. We also acquired the extensive archive after ufologist Sune Hjorth, where board member Carl-Anton Mattsson played an important role in the acquisition.

The FSR archives

In the summer of 2014, Anders Liljegren started a



The Spanish CEI (Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios) reports & investigative files kept at AFU

project to structure the huge Flying Saucer Review editorial archives, inherited from Gordon Creighton. The files occupy five full shelf sections along a wall in our oldest facility. This summer many files from correspondents in the United States and Canada were put in a preliminary order but the full archive can only be structured after many months of continuous work, spread throughout the coming years.

Audio tapes

With more than 4.000 audio cassettes already digitized we had some over-capacity this year and took in a box full of French interview cassettes which were digitized and then returned (with digitized files on a USB stick) to our French archive partner SCEAU (Sauvegarde et Conservation des Etudes et Archives Ufologiques).

Ghost rocket documents site

Anders Liljegren and Clas Svahn had a meeting in Stockholm (Dec 16) with a developer of a proposed new web site to help structure and explore the digitized 1946 Swedish ghost rocket documents from the Stockholm National Archives. The project site is an idea realized – *and paid for* – by the Ghost Rocket file documentary project group headed by film-makers Kerstin Übelacker and Mike Cavanagh.

Guests at the archives

About 35 people signed our guestbook, not counting numerous visits when we forgot to put the guestbook under the visitor’s eyes!

Visitors included: one researcher looking for Swedish fortean phenomena & unidentified submarine stories in the Sundberg archive (Febr

27); members of a local esoteric society (May 12); a group of new first-year students from the local university (August 26); two of our sponsors interested in further data from our report archive on the Vallentuna UFO wave in 1974 (Sept 17); two researchers from neighboring town of Linköping (Oct 11); members of the staff at the local community library (Oct 13); and two students from the Linköping university (Dec 5).

A Stockholm TV crew visited us on March 14 for some preliminary filming for a new documentary project.

Greg Eghigian, professor at Penn State University, USA, visited us May 19 – May 23. He is collecting research material for a major university study on how the UFO theme developed in the media and was accepted (or not) by the US and Western Europe societies as sightings began to occur during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.



May 2014: Greg Eghigian hard in action with his camera at AFU headquarters.

He wrote in our guest book: “You have assembled here a magnificent & wholly unique collection of archival material on the history of the UFO phenomenon (as well as other paranormal phenomena). Without question, this is the only archive of its kind, with sources from throughout the world. Moreover, the collection is organized in a clear, accessible and professional manner. It’s, put simply, a historian’s dream”.

On August 4 we had a visit by **Tuli Shivute** from far-off Namibia (in Africa) who promised to become our future contact with that country.



Tuli Shivute finding a treasure of interesting books in our Evans library.

On November 11 we picked up **Bob Rickard** at the Skavsta airport for his first visit to AFU. Bob is *the veteran British fortean*, founder of the Fortean Times, and one of the major donors to the archives. Bob’s basement was used for the files collected by the Charles Fort Insitute (CFI), now in custody with AFU and placed in better, more dry facilities. We regularly use Bob’s London basement, however, as a base for re-packing British collections that are to go to Sweden. Bob stayed with us until Nov. 14. While here he paid special attention to ordering the files on historical weather phenomena from Dr. Shove. This was donated to Bob Rickard and is now available in one of our store rooms.

Malin Axelsson, and her colleagues of the Ung Scen Öst (Young Scene East) theatre team, visited us regularly, starting on March 3, to be guided around and to read up on what we had in the archives. The idea was to write a play aimed at young people with a nice and thrilling UFO-abduction plot. However, Malin’s work, and meetings at AFU, eventually progressed into a play focusing more on “the work at an archive” and world views of unemployed people Malin had met and interviewed at AFU. The play was performed several times during the autumn for young audiences in Norrköping and Linköping.

A news article in Folkbladet, October 2, told the story behind the play under the caption “Your heart’s unknown archive”. There were a few teasers about UFOs in the play but Malin declared in the newspaper: “Archives for the Unexplained is

a wonderful place that can give ideas for a thousand new scene plays. That I will carry with me”.

News stories about AFU

Maria Äxter (text) and Malou Thorman (photographer) from the Ascala “new age” magazine visited us on May 6. The day resulted in an excellent presentation in text and pictures in their magazine, issue nr 18, for November 2014.



Arkivet för det oförklarade



Ascala article on Archives for the Unexplained

On Nov 18 the archives were visited by Jonas Carlsson (journalist) and Anders Törnström (photographer) from Motala-Vadstena Tidning collecting materials for an article. They interviewed Johan Gustavsson and Anders Liljegren about their work for AFU & UFO-Sweden. The two paged article ran on November 29 and also copied in the associated Norrköpings Tidningar on December 2.

On dozens of occasions, throughout the year, Clas Svahn spoke about the AFU archives' work during media interviews and public talks

Regional archives' co-op

AFU is a member of the national archives union **Folkörelsenas Arkivförbund** (www.faf.nu) and of the regional **Östergötlands Arkivförbund** (www.ostergotlandsarkivforbund.se/).

Anders Liljegren took part (April 2) in a meeting with the latter, where computer software for archives was demonstrated. After the meeting it was obvious that AFU must eventually go hunt for a computer system that is more complete and that

can handle all sorts of media, not just “lists of archival folders”.

Staff's social get-togethers

The annual miniature golf tournament took place on September 17. Members of the staff and board took part and this year the tournament was won by Peter Malmkvist.

Twenty-four members of the AFU staff & board gathered for a traditional Christmas dinner at Restaurant Laxholmen (on top of Norrköping's Museum of Work – www.arbetetsmuseum.se)

Annual board meeting

As mentioned on the first page of this report the AFU board met for the regular annual meeting on February 25. At this meeting discussions focused on the legal troubles connected to our proposed change of name, and on current and future donations to the foundation's collections.

UFO-Sweden

Traditionally UFO-Sweden had one of their board meetings at the AFU premises on November 15. Eleven members of the board assembled from many parts of the oblong country.



UFO-Sweden field investigators making plans for investigations at AFU headquarters.

On August 9 and 10 another meeting with eight attendees gathered to plan for an upcoming field investigation week in the Kolmården area close to Norrköping.